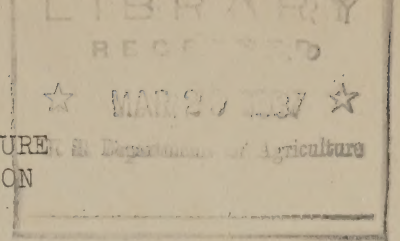


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D.C.



March 4, 1937

MEMORANDUM TO STATE AND COUNTY OFFICES
(Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia)

The instructions contained in Part III of East Central Region Bulletin 102 set forth the procedure under which triple superphosphate will be made available to farmers for use on soil-conserving crops in connection with the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program.

Two considerations have led to this arrangement: The widespread interest of farmers in measures enabling them to restore and maintain their soil resources and the conclusion that the use of concentrated phosphates is a key factor for such purpose. The activities of the Tennessee Valley Authority directed toward improving and cheapening plant food materials, determining their most effective use, and carrying the results of such experience to practical farmers, all have an important bearing upon the Agricultural Conservation Program. It is anticipated, therefore, that those provisions of the 1937 program relating to triple superphosphate will not only contribute substantially to the carrying out of the program, but will give a wider range of application to the educational work which the Tennessee Valley Authority is required to undertake.

In advising with farmers regarding the use of triple superphosphate in connection with the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program, committeemen and field workers should keep in mind the following:

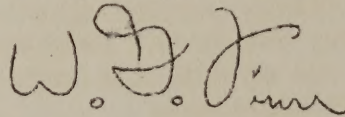
1. In a long-time conservation program, phosphorus plant food has come to occupy an increasingly important role. The natural supply is limited both in the soil and in the mine. Most of the deposits are remote from the areas of greatest need. It is being continually removed from the soil by the necessary processes of plant and animal production.
2. Transportation and distribution costs are important items in the cost of phosphates delivered to the land. These costs increase with the distance from the point of processing. The use of phosphates in concentrated form is necessary to the reduction of these costs.
3. Farmers generally are not accustomed to using fertilizers on soil-conserving crops. Few are familiar with the use of highly concentrated materials.
4. Fertilizers generally have been applied to soil-depleting crops for immediate cash income. The present arrangement enables farmers to enlarge their use on soil-conserving crops in long-time farm management programs directed toward soil conservation and improved soil fertility.

5. For maximum benefits to the land, phosphates must be properly supplemented with lime. They must be used in a systematic soil management program adapted to the conditions on the individual farm.

6. First-hand trials of concentrated phosphates by farmers on soil-conserving crops under their particular farm conditions are considered essential to an understanding of the value and effect of concentrated materials.

These and other factors have been considered by local farm groups in developing farm unit test-demonstrations under the guidance of Extension agencies and the Tennessee Valley Authority. These demonstrations are located in many communities in the East Central Region. It is therefore suggested that, to the extent possible, the demonstrations be used as centers of observation and study in carrying out the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program.

The test-demonstrations should be used in such a manner as to enable farmers participating in the 1937 program to adapt the practices there demonstrated to the conditions on their own farms. If existing test-demonstrations either do not adequately represent all important farming conditions or are not readily accessible for close study by all farmers participating in the 1937 program, such farmers may desire to bring this matter to the attention of agencies sponsoring such demonstrations.



W. G. Finn,
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